

Harrison House Burns

"In 1859, a fire burned the Harrison House (M. & M. Bank building) and the stores and offices on the west side of Main to Salem. In 1866, the east side of Main from Salem down suffered a vast loss of property. The entire business section below City Hall was burned in 1867, destroying 40 stores and shops, leaving 60 families homeless.

"An old paper had an item written by P. S. Joslin about the fire of 1867. It stated that one building on the south side of Seventh street

at the bridge was still standing. Mr. Thomas Voyle purchased it and established his mercantile business. Today it's the entrance to the Casino.

"In 1852 a wooden courthouse was erected. It burned in 1859, being set on fire by U-Know U-Know, a drunken prisoner who set fire to the mattress in his cell and lost his life in the fire. This court house had two stairways leading up to the entrance. Mother used to tell of the fun she and other children had running up one stairway and down the other.

"A brick building replaced this wooden structure and later it was enlarged. George Tryon was the contractor who later remodeled the City Building.

"All these fires led to the purchase of the old 'Jumper'—on which I rode with other grandchildren in the Semi-Centennial Parade of September, 1901. The past fires caused the formation of the Columbia Hose Co., No. 5, and my membership card (Miss Rashleigh is an honorary member of the company) bears the much-desired number '5'.

"In the 50's the Columbia's wore red flannel shirts, black trousers and the regular fire helmets. I used to play fireman, wearing an old helmet, belonging to my grandfather, a charter member.

"Then followed the Crystal Lake Water Company in 1859, giving us real fire protection.

"Both Columbia's and Mitchell's have served us well, thinking only of our welfare and safety. I am sorry our city has one curse—the false alarm. Our firemen do not deserve such treatment. As a teacher it was a subject I dwelt on everlastingly.

"Once in a downtown store, a lighted candle was placed in a bottle of kerosene and set in a cellarway. As it burned down, the oil ignited and bang! the fire was started.

"Firebugs were many but progress of the town didn't cease—the people rebuilt after every fire.

"Ella Voyle, my aunt, clerked for her father and from the doorway saw the men crossing the river after gagging James Stott, cashier, and robbing the First National Bank, which was located on South Main street. One of the gang was arrested and confessed and the rest were caught and convicted. In recent years, some of them came back to the city. A book entitled 'Timothy Dole' by Mrs. Salsbury who often visited at the Yarrington home, tells the story of the robbery. If any of you own the book, I'd like to read it again.

"The marble yard on Salem avenue opposite the Presbyterian church was of great interest to the children, who carried the pieces to

school. Tombstones were made here. John Dimmick had a store on Salem near Main. He was often late and one morning he found a tombstone in front of his door inscribed 'Not dead but sleeping.'

Fun In Days Gone By

"John Poor too was often late at his place of business downtown. near Tommy Voyle's store. One morning grandfather tore off a piece of black paper muslin and decorated the store, implying Poor's death. When Mr. Poor arrived there was murder in his eye—so I'm told. However, no casualties resulted.

"Having no fire alarm system, Elias Thomas, veteran watchman for 26 years at the head of No. 28 plane, blew the whistle according to wards, 1-2-3-4, where he saw the light in the sky. It was terrifying to hear that alarm in the middle of the night.

"People who left Carbondale carried the name to seven states—Colorado, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan and Ohio.

"Changes have taken place since 1851—I have seen the D. & H. change from one track along a fenced in field where the boys and I played ball to four tracks and switches with a fine piece of concrete and the station moved from Dundaff street to its present location, and all these years I have counted cars, waved at the engineers,—yes, and climbed aboard the big engines where they were on exhibition. I loaned books to the D. & H. Co. when they wrote 'A Century of Progress—1823-1923.'

"I have a paperweight, a car wheel stamped 1829, made from a

piece of the old Stourbridge Lion boiler. Will Johnson's father—a D. & H. employe—made three, one for Janet Bryden Durfee, one for Maybert Hunter Malaun and yours truly, three teachers. Charles Law collected the pieces and you'll see the engine at the Smithsonian Institute, Washington, D. C. When I saw it, I told the guard it was not all there. He thought I was crazy.

"Once upon a time Sue Jadwin asked Russell Jones if his father wore a wig. Russell indignantly replied, 'If he did he wouldn't buy a red one.'

"The land north and south of Carbondale was once owned by Lord John Russell of England. It sold at \$4 an acre. G. W. Morse bought a tract north and built a sawmill, a tannery and a large dwelling which burned and was rebuilt. It's Simpson now and we carry the name in 'Russell Park.' Another Russell came here and later bought a farm nearby, and the Russells have been bringing milk into this city for over 100 years.

"In a house south of 36 River street, lived old Mr. and Mrs. Root. When they went to church or prayer meeting of an evening, Ella Voyle went with them to carry their lantern and see them safely home.

The Kase Home

"Later John Kase, a furniture dealer, built the brick house with a mansard roof. Patrick Byrne said he put the basement on top. That was in 1870 and I could never be about my age because Mother always said, 'Alice was born when that house was built in 1870.'

"Grandma Few, a very deaf old lady, lived where the Douds live on River street. When asked why she went to church not being able to hear, she replied, 'I go to fill up.'

"When John Booth started business in 1883, Carbondale gained a good citizen and I gained a good friend.

"Frank Faulkner was a very faithful worker on the Gravity at the foot of No. 1 for many years. Every Thursday night found him at the Methodist Prayer meeting. When the time came to testify, Frank always finished his testimony with this thought—'You want to be ready, friends, at any moment you may be cut down like a flower in the field.'

The Bowen family were early settlers and lived near the Luther-